

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASCH, SEDU, SA

SUBJECT: HIGH SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF JIDDA 1926

1. A MEETING WAS HELD AT THE EMBASSY APRIL 12 BETWEEN THE DCM, USMTM AND COE OFFICIALS, AND DR. GORDON PARSONS OF A/OS TO DISCUSS FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING HIGH SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA.

2. EMBASSY RESERVES JUDGMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT A HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD BE BUILT IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE BELIEVE, PER REFTEL, A TEAM OF USDESEA/A/OS PERSONNEL SHOULD BE SENT TO KINGDOM AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT TO THOROUGHLY AND REALISTICALLY STUDY PROPOSAL. THE TEAM SHOULD RECOMMEND WHETHER OR NOT A HIGH SCHOOL IS FEASIBLE AND IF SO, SPECIFICALLY UNDER WHAT PRECEPTS AND CONSTRAINTS THE SCHOOL WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE, GIVEN THE UNIQUE SOCIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA.

3. THE EMBASSY REGARDS THE PRESENCE OF DR. PARSONS ON THE STUDY GROUP AS IMPORTANT. HIS EXPERIENCE CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL AND SAUDI ARABIA IN PARTICULAR MAKES HIS ROLE CRITICAL IN EFFECTIVELY ASSESSING THE PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH SCHOOL. WE TRUST A/OS WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS NECESSARY TO INSURE DR. PARSONS CAN ACCOMPANY THE USDEA REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO SAUDI ARABIA.

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4. ALSO AT THE MEETING THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE DISCUSSED:

(A) TO CONSIDER USING THE CONSULATE GENERAL COMPOUND IN DHAHRAN AS THE SITE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL (THE EMBASSY ENDORSES THIS IDEA); (B) THE COE WILL ESTIMATE THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPOSED SCHOOL; (C) DOD WILL CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL; (D) NO FURTHER ACTION RE ASKING LOCAL COMPANIES TO ASSIST IN FINANCING THE SCHOOL WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION ARE ESTIMATED AND THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL IS DETERMINED; (E) USMTM WILL CONTACT USDESEA AND ASK FOR ITS REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO BE IN-COUNTRY ON/ABOUT MAY 15.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT A/OS COORDINATE WITH USDEA TO REVIEW PROPOSAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA, THAT DR. PARSONS BE ASSIGNED TO SERVE AS DEPARTMENT'S PARTICIPANT ON SURVEY TEAM STUDYING FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING HIGH SCHOOL, AND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO HAVE TEAM IN SAUDI ARABIA NLT 15 MAY.
PORTER

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